Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting Tuesday, January 12, 2010 Morris County Department of Planning & Development 30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor Conference Room Morristown, NJ

In Attendance:

Board Members	Other Attendees	Staff
Ilene Dorf Manahan, Chairperson	Amy Magnuson, NJTPA	Frank Pinto
Melverne Cooke	Chris Mazzei, M&E Railway	Gerald Rohsler
Frank Reilly	Joe Wells	Deena Cybulski
Judith Schleicher		John Hayes
Art Valand, Vice Chairperson		
Dudley Woodbridge, Secretary		
Roman Zabihach, Alternate #1		

- **I. Call to Order**: Chairperson Ilene Dorf Manahan called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
- **II. Open Public Meeting Statement:** Chairperson Manahan read the Open Public Meetings Act compliance statement.
- **III. Roll Call:** Chairperson Manahan read the roll call. Seven voting members were present.
- **IV. Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson Manahan welcomed Roman Zabihach as a new alternate member and Joe Wells as a prospective new alternate member to the board. All attendees introduced themselves to the new members.
- **V. Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2009:** Deena Cybulski reported that Dudley Woodbridge had provided several corrections. Chairperson Manahan asked if there were any additional corrections. Approval of the minutes was moved by Frank Reilly, seconded by Art Valand and the minutes were unanimously approved.
- **VI. Election of Officers:** Mr. Reilly, Nominating Committee Chairperson recommended Ilene Dorf Manahan for Chairperson, Art Valand for Vice Chairperson, and Dudley Woodbridge for Secretary of the 2010 Board of Transportation. The election of officers was moved by Melverne Cooke, seconded by Judith Schleicher, and the recommended officers were unanimously elected.
- **VII. Selection of 2010 meeting dates:** Chairperson Manahan asked if the proposed meeting dates provided by staff were acceptable. Approval of the meeting dates was moved by Ms. Cooke, seconded by Mr. Woodbridge, and were unanimously approved. The approved 2010 meeting dates are April13, July 13, and October 12. The first meeting of 2011 will be held on

January 11, 2011. All meetings will take place at 7:00 PM in the conference room of the Morris County Department of Planning & Development, 30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor Conference Room, in Morristown, NJ.

Chairperson Manahan requested that the meeting attendees provide suggestions for the annual board trip. Chris Mazzei suggested a tour of the Chester Branch once rehabilitation is completed. Frank Pinto suggested a tour of all three county owned rail lines. Joe Wells of Pequannock commented that the walking network forming in Pequannock could be explored by the board. Further discussion of trip options will occur at the next meeting.

VIII. Staff Reports:

- **1. NJ Operation Toy Train:** Jerry Rohsler reported that the US Marine Corps' toy drive held on December 12-13, 2009 was successful. Over 2,500 toys were collected on the County-owned rail lines and over 4,000 toys were collected on the NYS&W Railway. There is discussion that Operation Toy Train might be held again next year.
- **2. Freight Railroad Advisory Committee:** Mr. Reilly congratulated Erik DeLine, Division of Transportation staff member, for providing a great presentation of the history of the freight railroads in Morris County at the first Freight Railroad Advisory Committee (FRAC) meeting held on January 12, 2010. Frank Pinto indicated that the goal of the FRAC was to provide a forum for open discussion of important freight projects and issues affecting communities in Morris County. The topics discussed at the meeting including the Chester Branch Rehabilitation, the Freight Infrastructure and Land Use Analysis study, and the at-grade railroad crossings in Dover.

IX. Old Business:

Mr. Rohsler reported that the bricks that were stored by Tri State Brick on county rail right-of-way at the Kenvil site in Roxbury have been completely removed and are now stored in North Bergen.

X. New Business:

- Ms. Cooke reported that Governor-Elect Chris Christie nominated Jim Simpson to be commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation and James Weinstein as executive director of New Jersey Transit.
- Chairperson Manahan asked if the new board members had any topics they would like to see explored and discussed at future meetings.
 - o Mr. Zabihach suggested further discussion and attention should be placed on freight movement in the region and Morris County's role in the freight network. Ms. Cybulski referred attendees to the new Freight Rail Advisory Committee webpage (http://morrisdot.org/Accessories/Transportation-FRAC.asp) and the existing Board of Transportation webpage (http://morrisdot.org/Accessories/Transportation-

<u>BoardMeetings.asp</u>) for meeting agendas, minutes, and content. Amy Magnuson referred attendees to the Freight Initiatives Committee webpage (http://www.njtpa.org/About/Committee/FIC.aspx) and offered to add any attendees upon request to the Committee mailing list. The Freight Initiatives Committee serves as a forum to discuss regional freight issues.

- o Mr. Wells suggested bikeways and bicycle improvement projects as topics for future meetings. He discussed his involvement in bicycle projects in the region including the NYS&W Bicycle Path. The status of the NYS&W Bike Path and other efforts should be reported at future meetings. Mr. Pinto announced that the Morris County Green Table, a group of stakeholders with interest in open space, currently consisting of non-profits, municipalities, Green Acres, the Morris County Park Commission, and the MUA, will focus their efforts over the next two years on trail improvements and connections. The Morris County GIS Section is developing a web based GIS application with an Open Space theme that will allow editing without a GIS license over the internet to help support trail mapping.
- Frank Reilly announced that the Lackawanna Cutoff Passenger Rail Project received a
 Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Pennsylvania portion of the project. He
 also reported that the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) installed a
 Weigh-In-Motion system to catch overweight trucks at the Throgs Neck Bridge six months
 ago and is investigating the installation of the system at additional locations.
- Ms. Cybulski reported that Bergen County Executive Dennis McNerney was elected Chairman of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) at the January 11, 2010 Board of Trustees meeting. Morris County Freeholder Gene Feyl was elected First Vice Chairman.
- Ms. Cybulski reported that NJ Transit has installed bicycle racks on the entire NJ Transit Morris County Metro (MCM) bus fleet.

XI. Public Comments: None

XII. Next Regular Meeting: April 13, 2010

XIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Notes prepared by John Hayes